

# Judiciary Times

Fall 2004

The newsletter of the New Jersey Judiciary

Winner of the Gold Astra Award for Newsletter  
Writing from the N.J. Communications, Advertising and  
Marketing Association

## Roberto A. Rivera-Soto Sworn In As Supreme Court Associate Justice

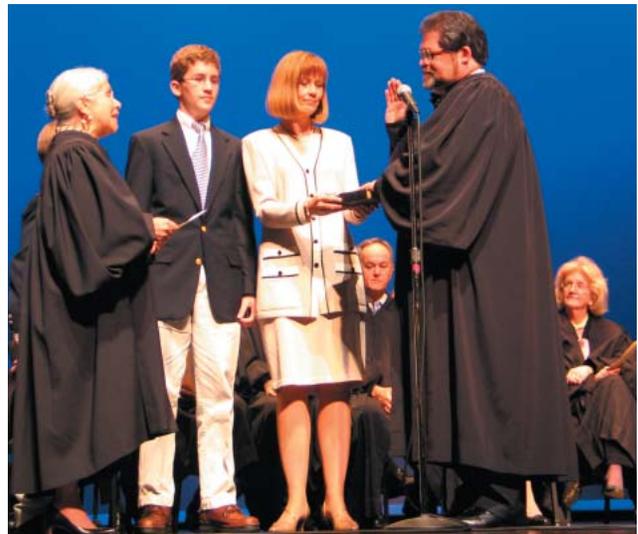
On Sept. 14 in Trenton's War Memorial, Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz administered the ceremonial oath of office to Roberto A. Rivera-Soto of Had-donfield as an associate justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of former Justice Peter G. Verniero.

Justice Rivera-Soto was privately sworn in by Senior Associate Justice Virginia A. Long on Sept. 1. Justice Rivera-Soto is the first New Jersey Supreme Court justice of Hispanic heritage. Speakers at the swearing in included Chief Justice Poritz; Gov. James E. McGreevey, who appointed Justice Rivera-Soto; former Associate Justice Alan B. Handler; and Joel H. Sterns and Steven W. Sufflas, friends of the new associate justice. Renee Sarajian, regional judicial officer for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, and a close family friend, sang the National Anthem, and Rev. Reginald Jackson of St. Matthew AME Church delivered the invocation.

Justice Rivera-Soto, 50, was born in New York City and grew up in Puerto Rico. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he was a partner at Fox Rothschild, with New Jersey offices in Princeton and Atlantic City. He previously served as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Caesars World (from 1994-1999), and as vice president, corporate counsel and secretary of Greate Bay Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City (1983-1994).

From 1980 to 1983 he was a litigation associate at Fox Rothschild in its Philadelphia office. From 1978-

80, he served as an assistant United States attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and, during 1977, Justice Rivera-Soto interned in the Office of the District Attorney of Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



**Swearing-in ceremony**—Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz (left) administers the oath of office to Associate Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto in the War Memorial, Trenton, on Sept. 14. Also shown are the justice's wife, Mary Catherine Mullaney, and son, Christian. Not visible behind the Chief Justice is son, Nathan. Senior Associate Justice Virginia A. Long (right) and Associate Justice James R. Zazzali are in the background. (Photo by L. Holt)

Justice Rivera-Soto received the United States Department of Justice's Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney in 1980. Additionally, he received commendations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Customs Service.

### Inside...

<b>Collins Ijoma NACM President</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>What POs Think of Drug Court</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>DV Training Video Wins Award</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Training</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>Youth Excel at Probation Olympics</b>	<b>pp. 8-9</b>

Continued on page 14

## Collins E. Ijoma, Essex TCA, Sworn in as NACM President

by Thomas Dibble  
Operations Division, Essex Vicinage

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) held in Dallas in mid-July, Essex Trial Court Administrator Collins E. Ijoma was sworn in as the organization's president for 2004-2005.

Collins has been a long time active member of the nation's premier

professional association for court managers and administrators following on the heels of Essex's prior TCA, John Clarke, who was the NACM president 1988-1989.

"Essex is fortunate to have a nationally recognized administrator as our TCA," said Essex Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello.

In his acceptance remarks Collins outlined a bit of the incredible journey that led to this position:

As one wanders down the path of life, it takes many unexpected turns. Some of these turns are seemingly by accident and others a product of planning and preparation. As a boy growing up in Africa, if I ever thought about coming to America I could only envision being a cowboy or a rock 'n' roll star. To be the trial court administrator in the largest court in New Jersey and then to become president of the largest as-

sociation of court management professionals in the world was beyond my imagination. But as you all know, this is a great country and anything is possible.

In the early 1980s Collins completed the Master in Public Administration degree at Seton Hall University in Newark. He applied for what he thought was a temporary position with Superior Court. However, this job gave him the feeling that the court was a special place to work; he interpreted that feeling as a calling to do something good in society.

"This is an outstanding achievement and your success is a positive reflection on our vicinage," Family Division Presiding Judge Glenn A. Grant told the new NACM president.

Collins applied himself and took advantage of the opportunities to grow within the New Jersey Judiciary and to look outside at what was going on in the larger world of courts. He enrolled in the Court Ex-

continued to page 12

*Judiciary Times* is prepared by Communication Services, Office of Communications, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for employees of the Judiciary and volunteers who work with the court system.

The Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court is Deborah T. Poritz. The Acting Administrative Director of the Courts is Judge Philip S. Carchman.

Please e-mail short news articles saved as Word documents, photos and/or suggestions to: *Linda Holt@judiciary.state.nj.us* or send disk, photos and paper copy to: Editor, *Judiciary Times*, Office of Communications, PO Box 037, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton NJ 08625-0037. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

### Editorial Staff and Contributors

*Director of Communications*

Winifred Comfort

*Editor* Linda Brown Holt

*Contributors*

Janet Bastien, Colin Lochner, Thomas Dibble, Bernadette Fiore, Frank Hoerber, Tamara Kendig, Tina LaLena, Carol Marion, Mary McGinty, Victoria Moreno, Theresa Romano, Laura A. Simoldoni. Thanks to the other Judiciary staff who contributed articles, information and photographs.



**Transfer of Leadership**—Collins Ijoma (right), Essex trial court administrator, accepts the president's gavel from Lawrence G. Myers, outgoing president of the National Association for Court Management. Myers is court administrator with the municipal court of Joplin, Missouri.

*Drug Court from the Inside Out*

# Union Vicinage Probation Officers Explain What Drug Court Means to Them

by Victoria Moreno, Vicinage Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Union Vicinage

In September, New Jersey’s drug court program went statewide. While many articles have been written about how drug court makes a difference for participants, the story of the probation officers who work in drug courts has not been told.

Here in their own words, probation officers explain what drug court means to them and how their lives are changed by the work they do.

Getting probation officers to sit still long enough to answer a few questions proved difficult. They are neither accustomed to nor comfortable with talking about themselves. Their focus is always on the client.

Probation officers are extraordinary, high energy and dedicated individuals who truly thrive on the challenge, the calling and the reward of changing lives. They work hard, but they’ll tell you that they are the lucky ones who get to feel the satisfaction of seeing results.

Union Vicinage probation officers interviewed for this article were: Jamel Dorsey, probation officer; John Flynn, senior probation officer; Mike Imbriacco, supervising probation officer; Pamela Lang, senior probation officer; Bertha Moran, probation officer; and Ann Mullan, probation officer. Here’s what they said about working in drug court:

**Judiciary Times (JT):** Why do you work in drug court?

**John:** It’s challenging and rewarding to see people put their lives together. Seeing failures can beat you down. You run around chasing your tail. In drug court, you see results, good results. It’s hard work, but worth the rewards.

**Pam:** To be a person in a person’s life. To see how you can affect a life. I can’t imagine what their lives have been like. All credit is due to our clients. But to be there at their epiphany is the best feeling.

**Jamel:** I have a different perspective from others working in drug court. I can relate it to my own life’s situation. For me, it’s about a chance to give back. I know that people can make it against the odds.

**JT:** How would you describe what you do as a drug court probation officer?

**Ann:** We help people get their lives back.

**Pam:** It can best be described as “personalized supervision.” Each of us brings a different personality and a different background. Each of

us has a specialty and we work to find the right fit for the client.

**Jamel:** We wear a lot of hats. I think of myself as a clinician, a counselor and probation officer.

**JT:** What gets you through the day?

**John:** It’s our team. We work well together. We are dealing with serious issues but we kid around and have fun.



**Union’s Drug Court Commencement**—Participants at September’s commencement include (clockwise from top left): Judith and son; William with Bertha Moran, probation officer; Tim with Ann Mullan, probation officer, in background; and Roberta and her husband, with Ann Mullan in background. (Photos by Colin Lochner)

Continued on page 12

## Improved Customer Service is Goal of Monmouth's New Program

by Theresa Romano  
Administrative Specialist IV  
Monmouth Vicinage

The excitement was contagious in Monmouth Vicinage as we celebrated National Customer Service "I Treasure My Customers" Week, Oct. 4-8. Of the several initiatives celebrated during the week, the highlight was a ribbon-cutting ceremony launching the new customer relations centers.

Initiated by the International Customer Service Association in 1988 and proclaimed by Congress, National Customer Service Week is celebrated the first full week of October.

Over the past several months, vicinage staff have worked on enhancing dedication to customer service. Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Marsi L. Perkins, trial court administrator, invited staff to develop inventive ways to improve internal and external customer service. The goal was to create an atmosphere in the court that not only enhances the quality of our customer's experience, but also boosts the level of employee drive and satisfaction.

At the forefront of the initiatives are the customer relations centers now located at both the east and west wings of the court-

house. Spanish interpreters are available at the east wing. The staff at the centers not only answer questions and provide court users with information to navigate the courthouse, but also provide customers with insight into other services that extend beyond the court. The goal is to provide public information, community relations and citizen assistance by making available information on legal aid and bar referral programs, social service agencies and county organizations.

A court greeters' program is also in place. On a rotating basis, staff from all divisions assist clients at the centers during week-day hours of 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The challenge to better serve the public has further motivated staff to form a committee to tackle internal customer service, which includes boosting employee satisfaction.

As an example of a need addressed by the group, new identification lanyards were provided to employees. The heightened security at all state buildings, including the Judiciary, had made it increasingly important for our employees to wear their identification at all times.

The staff has expressed excitement in being given the opportunity to participate in changing the vicinage in a positive way. Employees realize that they can make a difference in their work environment, which not only has an impact on the employee, but also assists with improved community relations and increases the courts level of professionalism.

Overall, Monmouth Vicinage wants to provide an enhanced atmosphere for all customers, whether they work here or are visiting.

## Judiciary's Domestic Violence Video Named Finalist in National Contest

The New Jersey Judiciary's training video, "Domestic Violence: The Abuse," was named a finalist by the Telly Awards, a national award program founded in 1978 to honor outstanding professional TV commercials, videos and film productions. Winners are judged with scores of 9.0 or better, and finalists are in the 7.0 to 8.9 range.

The production was the result of teamwork by the Judiciary's Family Division and Office of Communications.

"This is an excellent training tape and would sensitize those who see it to the dynamics of domestic violence," said Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli, assignment judge of the Ocean Vicinage and chair of the Domestic Violence Working Group since 1989.

"The video is well done and an excellent training tool," said Judge Graham T. Ross, assignment judge of the Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren Vicinage. "It will be very helpful in the Judiciary's program to educate judges and staff."

The first in a series of training videos for judges and staff, the production was funded by a Violence Against Women Act grant. Staff involved in the production included: Christine Hepner, an administrative specialist in the Family Division, who developed the concept, wrote the grant application and produced the video; and William Mecca, video coordinator in the Office of Communications, who directed, co-wrote the script, narrated the video and handled all aspects of post-production. Linda Brown Holt, manager of communication services, was project manager.

The first video in the series gives viewers an up-close and sometimes disturbing view of the dynamics of domestic violence. Professional actors, using the dialogue and scenarios Hepner and other experts provided, portray a realistic incident of domestic violence.

The Telly Awards program recognizes the highest standards

At Staff College Nov. 22 and 23

## Learn How to Communicate through Publications And Attract Positive News Media Coverage

Staff from the Judiciary's Office of Communications will present *Getting Your Message Across: Communicating with Publications and the News Media*, at the Staff College Nov. 22 and 23. The two-hour workshop will be presented twice on each day.

Linda Brown Holt, manager of communication services, will present an overview of the Judiciary's publications program and offer techniques to produce more effective publications during the first hour, *Communicating with Publications*. The workshop will help participants write and design publications that meet the Judiciary's standards for quality, content and consistency. Topics will include:

- How to produce publications that communicate your message; and
- What does and does not belong in Judiciary publications.

Tamara Kendig, communications specialist and press officer, will provide ideas and strategies for attracting positive media coverage of Judiciary achievements, programs and events during the second hour, *Communicating with the News Media*. This part of the workshop will explore ways of building public trust and confidence through press releases, public events and positive, professional relationships with reporters. Topics will include:

- The importance of maintaining an open and understandable court system;
- Ideas for positive news stories;
- Writing and distributing press releases; and
- Cameras in the courtrooms, reporters in the basement and other media moments that can make or break public trust and confidence in the courts.



**ADR Award Presented**—Bob Margulies presents the Service to the Bar Award of the New Jersey State Bar Association Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section to Marilyn C. Slivka, chief of the special programs unit in Trial Court Services, Programs and Procedures Unit. The presentation was made June 11 in Iselin during ADR Day VIII, the eighth annual conference sponsored by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) in cooperation with the New Jersey State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section, the Justice Garibaldi ADR Inn of Court, the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators, the American Arbitration Association, the New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. Slivka was honored for “extraordinary service to the dispute resolution community and unparalleled dedication to complementary dispute resolution and its integration into the law in New Jersey.” (Photo by Bill Levy)



**ICLE Winner Michelle V. Perone**—Michelle V. Perone, chief of civil court programs for the Judiciary, received a Distinguished Service Award in June from the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) for 2004. Presented by Albert L. Cohn (right), a member of ICLE's board of directors, the award was made “in recognition of her extraordinary service to the dispute resolution community and unparalleled dedication to complementary dispute resolution and its integration into the practice of law.” The event was held at the Law Center in New Brunswick.

# Bergen Tackles Domestic Violence In Five Grant-Supported Seminars

by Laura Simoldoni, EEO/AA Officer, Bergen Vicinage

With the help of a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant, the Bergen Vicinage recently offered five seminars on the impact of ethnic and cultural

differences on attitudes toward domestic violence. The seminars were well attended by Judiciary employees, municipal court employees, prosecutor's office staff and domestic violence workgroup members.

Offered in May and June, the seminars focused on domestic violence issues in the following categories:

---

## Atlantic/Cape May Sponsors Seminar to Improve Services For Domestic Violence Victims

by Mary Beth Hornig  
Domestic Violence Team Leader  
Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

With help from a \$2,250 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant, the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage sponsored a seminar to help judges and staff provide better services.

Municipal judges, superior court staff, prosecutors and domestic violence service providers from throughout the vicinage met in Cape May for the seminar this spring.

A variety of speakers made the day an informative one. Judge John Rauh shared his experiences as a former municipal prosecutor, while Municipal Presiding Judge Louis J. Belasco Jr. provided municipal law updates.

Appellate Court Judge Robert A. Fall led a lively discussion with participants. Jennifer Lombardi, staff attorney in the Family Practice Division, gave an interactive PowerPoint presentation, "The 'High Five' of Domestic Violence Issues in Municipal Court." Her presentation covered legal issues that municipal judges face.

In the afternoon, participants met representatives from various organizations who offer assistance, support and hope to victims of domestic violence.

Participants left the seminar with the knowledge to provide better services relating to domestic violence cases.

- Gay and lesbian relationships. The instructor for this seminar was Robin Parker from the Beyond Diversity Resource Center.
- African-American culture. Robin Parker facilitated.
- The Asian context, with an emphasis on Korean culture. Kay Yin described her experiences as an interpreter working with victims of domestic violence.
- Hispanic culture. Dolly Sacristan from the Bergen Family Center presented a seminar on this subject.
- Jewish culture. The speaker was Elke Stein from Project S.A.R.A.H. (Stop Abusive Relationships At Home).

Attendees received information packets and a purple domestic violence awareness ribbon. A number of attendees remarked that they would benefit from attending a yearly series of similar programs.

The VAWA grant was obtained following deliberations and planning by Bergen staff. Earlier this year, Adrienne Hansard-Rizzo, a Bergen supervising probation officer, and Tracey Henky, domestic violence team leader, met with Johanna Antonacci, Family Division manager; Nola Steele, training coordinator; and me (in my role as EEO/AA officer) to discuss domestic violence training initiatives.

These discussions led to a proposal that was approved by Jon Goodman, trial court administrator, and submitted as a grant proposal. Vicinage staff are studying ways to build on the success of this program in the future.

# Ocean Vicinage Provides Clothing To Help Women Returning to Work

by Tina LaLena, Certified Municipal Court Administrator Administrative Specialist IV Ocean Vicinage Municipal Division

*“Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you’ll find one at the end of your arm...as you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” - Audrey Hepburn*

Imagine being without a job, without skills, collecting welfare, and with no way out. Now imagine someone giving you the training you need to get the job that will change your life. How wonderful that would be!

But what if you have nothing suitable to wear to work, let alone a job interview? That is the premise that began Suited for Success Boutique, a welfare-to-work program located in Lakewood, five years ago.

The boutique is stocked with donations of gently used clothing. Qualified students from all over Ocean County receive “dollars” to spend at the boutique. Other students work at the store and operate the cash register, learning valuable skills along the way.

The Ocean County Municipal Division decided that Suited for Success, a program that collects women’s clothing, was a perfect match for the Judiciary which has many women on staff. The first donation, arranged after the division’s 2003 Fall Conference, consisted of 25 bags of clothing collected from Municipal Court staff.

Staff decided to try to top 2003 contributions and, with the bless-

ing of Assignment Judge Eugene Serpentelli and Richard D. Prifold, trial court administrator, a flurry of e-mails and closet cleaning took place.

On June 15 Eric Muniz, division manager, Rudy Hudowalski, general operations manager, and I were ready and waiting with a huge van at 8 a.m. Car after car pulled up and popped the trunk to unload their goods. Eric and I took the clothing to the Suited for Success Boutique where a team was waiting to unload. And unload they did! Eighty-five large plastic bags of coats, blazers, pants, dresses, shoes, handbags and more were carried up three flights of stairs to the boutique.

Program Director Pat O’Loughlin, snapping pictures, said it was their largest donation to date. Pat sent a letter of appreciation saying, “The clothing is beautiful and I can assure you, will be passed on to women who will feel great wearing them. They will be given a ‘second life’ for a really good cause! Everyone’s generosity is greatly appreciated!”

Plans are already underway for an autumn collection, with hopes of surpassing the past 85 bags. The Municipal Division would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who donated, and also to Assignment Judge Serpentelli and Rich Prifold for providing the leadership to make this event such a success!

---

## Del Preore Named New Burlington TCA

Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney, Burlington Vicinage, has announced the appointment of Jude Del Preore as trial court administrator, effective Nov.15. Acting Administrative Director Philip S. Carchman said that he named Del Preore on the strong recommendation of Judge Sweeney.

The trial court administrator is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations, including financial management, human resources, information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis.

A Burlington County resident, Del Preore joins the Burlington Vicinage from Mercer Vicinage, where he has served as trial court



**Jude Del Preore**

administrator since 1997.

“Jude will bring to the Burlington Vicinage his extensive experience in managing Mercer’s busy court operations,” said Judge Sweeney. “I am delighted that he will be joining our vicinage and am confident that we will benefit greatly from his leadership, his vision and his dedication.”



# Fair Skies Smile on Judiciary Olympics...

by Mary McGinty  
 Administrative Specialist IV  
 Probation Services

A total of 170 juvenile probationers from 16 counties and the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program competed for the gold in this year's Judiciary Olympics. The event was held in Brookdale Park, Essex County, on Aug. 11, the day before the Athens Olympics got underway.

Sponsored by the Positive Interventions Committee (PIC) of Juvenile Probation Services, the event featured athletic contests followed by a picnic lunch served by the Essex County probation staff.

The participants, divided into teams by county and age, competed in a 100-meter dash, a relay race, football throw, home run derby, long jump, obstacle course, softball throw, jump rope competition and, finally, a tug of war. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded in each event, then overall county winners were identified for first, second and third place trophies: Bergen County (first place), Essex County (second place) and Union County (third place).

Jessica Perez, Essex County probation officer and PIC member, was the point person handling the details of the day. She worked with experienced staff on the committee to ensure that the previous years' successes were duplicated and added her own improvements to the preparations that will be adopted by future hosts of the games.

Continued on page 9



# ...Downpour Waits for Clean-up Time

Continued from page 8

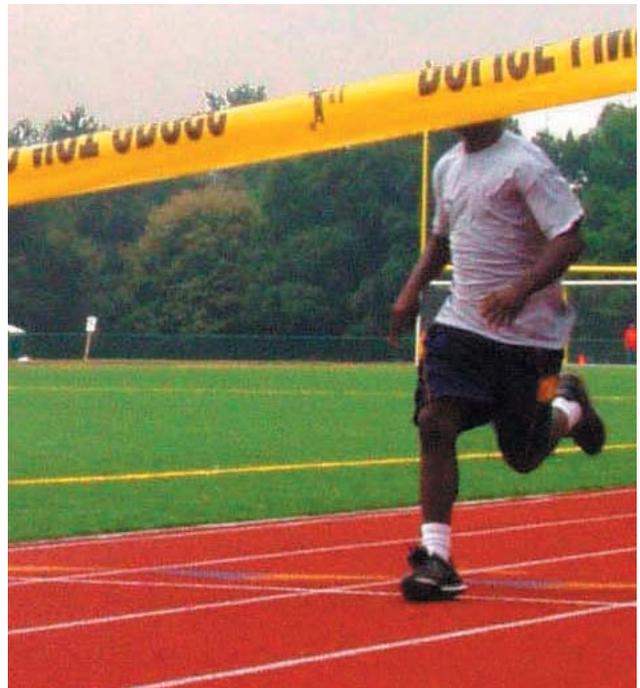
Pete Conerly, vicinage chief probation officer, led both the adult and juvenile probation staff from Essex County in their role as host. They arrived at the park at the crack of dawn, set up the equipment and food, and, of course, cleaned up after it was over.

The rain held off long enough for the events to be completed and the food served, but the Essex staff had to fold up the tables and pick up the trash in a down-pour! We are grateful for the excellent teamwork Essex demonstrated in making this event such a success. Probation officers select participants for the Olympics based on their compliance with the terms of their probation. The Olympics provides them with an opportunity to enjoy a leisure experience with adults who will support them in learning new social skills.

Many juvenile probationers do not play sports at their schools or to take trips with their families, so PIC plans recreational and educational outings to aid in their rehabilitation.

Probation officers view the events sponsored by the committee as an important aid in turning juveniles around during their probation term. Fred Bostel, vicinage chief probation officer in Union County, chairs the committee and points out that PIC is the only statewide probation committee charged with assisting rehabilitation by providing rewards for improved performance, and its members invest their time and skills to maximize the number of juveniles who can take advantage of these activities.

The Judiciary Olympics remains the favorite event for both probationers and probation staff.



*Photos by Brandie Sica, Judiciary Communications Intern.  
Facial detail obscured to protect privacy of participants.*



# Essex Family Division Breakfast Recognizes Staff Excellence

by Bernadette Fiore, Family Division Manager, Essex Vicinage

The Essex Vicinage Family Division held its annual recognition breakfast for staff on July 23 in the Wilentz Building in Newark. Sponsored by vicinage judges and managers, the breakfast is a way to thank staff for their excellent performance.

Family Division Presiding Judge Glenn A. Grant and I presented awards in the following categories within the Family Division:

**Best Customer Service:** Noreen Negron. She was recognized for always helping litigants and staff in a pleasant professional manner.

**Best Performance:** MaryAnn Carlucci, Maria Cortez and Rhonda Baker. These staff members helped their units achieve some of the best results the division has seen in years.

**Best Idea:** LaRay Hay. LaRay is always thinking of new ways to collect and present data to his supervisor to make tracking cases easier.

**Team Leader of the Year:** Sheila Jackson and Agnes Ekama. These outstanding team leaders work hard, support their judges and are well liked and respected by staff.

**Special Project Award:** Duplicate Party Project. Marcia Dunn headed a project to clean up duplicate parties in the FACTS system. "Duplicate parties" may occur during data entry when a name is spelled differently and as a result,

a new case created for the same person. Finding and correcting these errors is difficult and time consuming. The entire team did an outstanding job.

**Most Affirmed Opinions:** Judge James B. Convery was recognized for the most affirmed opinions. "Affirmed opinions" means that a higher court agrees with a judge's opinions when the judge is challenged by a litigant. When this happens frequently, it indicates that the judge has been making sound decisions.

**Most Published Opinions:** Judge Peter V. Ryan was acknowl-

edged for the number of published opinions.

**Judicial Leadership:** Judge Sallyanne Floria was recognized for judicial leadership through her committee involvement.

Also attending the breakfast were new Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello; Collins Ijoma, trial court administrator; and Kirk Nixon, assistant trial court administrator. Over coffee and danish, everyone socialized and spent time with their colleagues. Staff clearly enjoyed the recognition of their efforts.



**Honored by Essex Family Division**—Among those honored by the Essex Family Division were (left to right, front): Noreen Negron, Maria Cortez, MaryAnn Carlucci and Sheila Jackson; (back) Judge James B. Convery, Marcia Dunn, LaRay Hay, Agnes Ekama and Bernadette Fiore.

## Monmouth JCC And CPR Volunteers Tour Youth Lodge to See Programs First-hand

by Carol Marion  
Probation Officer  
Monmouth Vicinage

In June, 25 Monmouth County volunteers in the Juvenile Justice Committee and Child Placement Review program toured the East Mountain Youth Lodge in Belle Meade to observe first-hand the residential treatment programs available to troubled youth.

The youth lodge deals exclusively with adolescents experiencing psychiatric, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Many of these youths also have a family history of abuse, neglect and violence.

Through an in-depth presentation and tour with the residential director and counselors, volunteers came away with a more realistic understanding of the referral process and the human story behind the statis-

tics. In addition, volunteers learned about the latest treatment modes and therapeutic techniques used to help these young people.

Following the field trip, the volunteers attended a courthouse luncheon hosted by Presiding Family Judge Eugene A. Iadanza. Judge Iadanza emphasized the importance of field trip participation as he discussed the court's role in placing and monitoring youth in residential treatment. The judge concluded his remarks with a question and answer session.

As part of the Monmouth Vicinage Annual Judiciary Volunteer Education Program, volunteers are encouraged to participate in field trips to learn more about treatment facilities and the problems facing young people.

## And Visions of XBoxes Danced in Their Heads

Continued from page 16

And, Santa, just so you don't lose your way bringing all my gadgets this year, why not mount one of the new personal GPS devices on your sleigh and get Rudolph off your payroll? These voice-guided devices will guide you turn-by-turn, giving you speed, distance and time to destination. They come with pre-loaded maps and touch screen technology to enter address information.

Try a hand-held model for when you are back home trekking around the North Pole with Mrs. Claus, escaping from those pesky elves. Some models feature a barometer for information on changing weather, an altimeter to determine your present elevation and an electronic compass to show your direction, even while standing still. You can get built-in maps, navigational screens and the ability to save points of interest and your favorite routes.

Santa, I could go on and on with all the gadgets available: notebooks, digital cameras, laptops, PDAs. All these gadgets are getting smaller yet more powerful, so they won't weigh down your sleigh and put too much strain on your steed.

I'll leave you your favorite cookies. Don't worry about crumbs; Mom's robotic vacuum cleaner will sweep it right up.

If you have any questions, just IM me anytime.

## Gloucester County Unveils New Civil Division

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Assignment Judge George H. Stanger Jr. and Freeholder Director Stephen Sweeney unveiled one of two newly renovated courtrooms for the Gloucester County Civil Division this summer.

The renovated courtrooms include roll-down screens for audio-visual presentations, acoustic panels for better sound and newly designed benches for judges. In addition, Civil Division employees, previously located in various offices, now are located together in the county building with an intake office directly off the main entrance on Delaware St.

The renovations also provide four new arbitration/conference rooms and a jury assembly area.

# Union Vicinage Probation Officers Explain What Drug Court Means to Them

Continued from page 3

**Jamel:** We all get along really well. We cover each other. Everybody works!

**Bertha:** I work with five incredible people! If I'm having a bad day, John makes me smile. Sometimes he sings to me!

**JT:** What's a typical day?

**Mike:** There's no typical day. You never know what's going to happen.

**John:** Each day is different. A phone call can change the day. You have to react quickly to signs of relapse. You have to follow your gut and see where it takes you.

**Bertha:** The only thing that's typical is change!

**Pam:** It's "harried," but we thrive on it. We wouldn't have it any other way.

**JT:** Does a particular client come to mind when you think of how your relationship changed over time?

**Bertha:** Margie (not her real name) is my client. She was very angry and frustrated. She has

three kids and has had it tough all her life. Her anger always interfered with what we were trying to do with her. We worked hard. She was clean and got a job as a phlebotomist. Then she tested positive. She didn't do it in defiance. She admitted, "I did it cause I was stupid." I went to bat for her. She was not put in jail. She was put in treatment. Then she lied on a meeting sheet. At that time, she had a lot on her plate. Again I did not recommend jail. That woke her up, so to speak. She got sanctioned big-time, got more treatment. She's doing fine now. We worked through it. We have a different relationship. Matter of fact, she just called me simply to tell me that she had a good day. That's amazing and so gratifying.

**Jamel:** I was just thinking about a client this morning. On the face of it, he acts as if he hates me. My relationship with him is anything but close. But you know what, he's doing what he needs to do, and that's what's important. It's not about liking each other. It's about making those hard

decisions that might be necessary to get someone on track. It's not about getting recognition. It's just about doing the job of a drug court probation officer.

**JT:** Have you ever found yourself, in the course of the day, doing something that made you stop and think, "I can't believe I'm doing this?"

**John:** Ninety urines in an afternoon is something I never anticipated!

**Bertha:** I spent a lot of time one summer trying to get an air conditioner for a client with AIDS. I only managed to get a second-hand one. She's no longer in drug court, but I just saw her the other day and she says, "It's still working."

**Ann:** Taking a client's clothes to a treatment facility is part of the job. I can tell you about the first time I ever put a client in jail. I couldn't stop thinking that I had taken away a day of a person's life. That's something I didn't think that I would be doing. I have come to realize that maybe I gave him more days that he would have had.

**Pam:** Sometimes, while testing urine, I think, "If my father ever knew what I did for a living!" He would probably say, "This is what I spent all that college education money on?" You know what, it was worth every dime!

**JT:** How has drug court changed you?

**John:** I have a new optimism about the system. "Drug court probation works."

**Pam:** I feel like a probation officer. I'm doing what we're supposed to do; that is, truly helping to change lives.

---

## Collins Ijoma New NACM President

continued from page 2

ecutive Development Program and became a fellow of the Institute for Court Management in 1988.

During his tenure as president, Collins hopes to start a process to identify the next generation of exceptional thinkers who will continue to advance the profession. He is also planning to lead NACM in taking a serious look at

membership in the organization and to tap into the many potential members who have not yet joined. He is also exploring some creative and innovative ways to add value to NACM membership.

Collins is humbled by the tasks ahead and stated that he realizes that he has only one year to build on the work that is already in progress and begin other initiatives.



**Supreme Court Courtroom Restoration**—The Supreme Court met for the first time in its newly restored courtroom on Sept. 13. The restoration, which began in July, addressed safety concerns, replaced deteriorated furnishings and made the room more attractive. Workers replaced steps with ramps and installed fabric-covered chairs.

## Domestic Violence Video Named Telly Award Finalist

Continued from page 4

of excellence in videography. The contest receives more than 10,000 entries each year from all 50 states and several other countries.

Last year's winners included MSNBC, NASA, Oracle, Philadelphia Eagles Television Network, the Mayo Clinic, Target and Readers Digest. The statuette presented to winners and finalists is designed and manufactured by the same company that produces the Oscars.



## Special Programs Chief Enjoys Role in Choir Tour of England and Scotland

Marilyn Slivka, chief of the special programs unit in Trial Court Services, Programs and Procedures Unit, has been known to sing the praises of her staff members' accomplishments in complementary dispute resolution, language services, jury and volunteer programs.

But in July, she had a chance to sing quite a different tune on the other side of the Atlantic.

Marilyn and her husband, Ron, toured England and Scotland for a week with the combined choirs of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Yardley, Pa., and the Morrisville Presbyterian Church.

An alto, Marilyn sang with the choir in St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland; the Royal Air Force Chapel at Biggin Hill; and in the cathedral on the small island of Iona, settled by Celtic monks in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and source of the famous Book of Kells. Joined on the tour by a brass quintet from Allentown, Pa., the 24-member choir sang selections ranging from hymns to classical selections by Mozart and Vaughan Williams.

Marilyn was particularly impressed by the beauty of Iona, with its ruined abbey and artifacts of both Christian and Druidic culture. But one of the most moving moments on the tour was singing a benediction at the chapel of the American Cemetery near Cambridge, followed by the sound of two trumpeters

playing taps, one in echo of the other. "It was such a special experience," she recalled. "The list of missing American service members on the wall included the name of Glenn Miller, the bandleader."

Marilyn said that while she and her husband very much enjoy singing in the choir at St. Andrew's, this trip allowed for the experience of singing in very old and historic surroundings and meeting local people who came out to the concerts. That, she said, was the best part of all.



**RAF Concert**—Marilyn Slivka (third from right) sings during a choir concert at the Royal Air Force Chapel in Biggin Hill, England, this summer. (Photo by Ron Slivka)



**Welcoming a New Associate Justice**—(Above right) Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz speaks during the public swearing-in ceremony for Associate Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto on Sept. 14. (Above left) The new justice poses with his wife, Mary Catherine Mullaney, and sons Christian (left) and Nathan (center) after the private swearing-in ceremony Sept. 1.

## Associate Justice Rivera-Soto's Swearing In

Continued from page 1

He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Supreme Court of Nevada, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court

of Delaware, as well as before a number of federal trial and appellate courts and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prior to his assumption of responsibilities on the Supreme Court, Justice Rivera-Soto was a certified mediator in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey; a member and the past chair of the District VII Ethics Committee of the Supreme Court of New Jersey; a former member of the Board of Directors of the Please Touch Museum;

Also, a former member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Development Authority for Small Businesses, Minorities and Women's Enterprises; a former alternate member of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of Nevada; and a former instructor in trial advocacy at Rutgers (Camden) School of Law.

Justice Rivera-Soto graduated from Colegio Nuestra Senora Del Pilar, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1970. He is a 1974 honors graduate of Haverford College, where he was the José Padin Scholar of the Class of 1974.

He received a doctor of law degree in 1977 from Cornell University School of Law, where he was a Charles K. Burdick Scholar, and a member of the Moot Court Board.

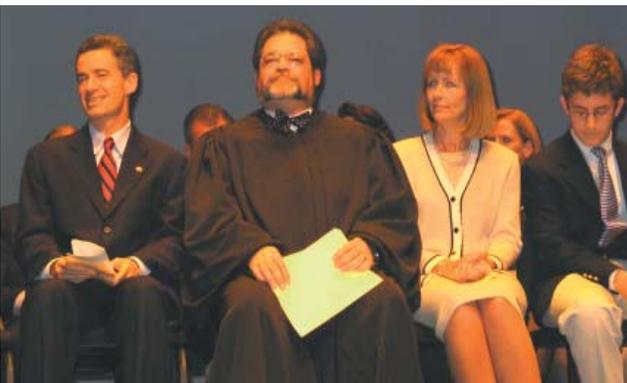
He is married to the former Mary Catherine Mullaney. They have three sons: Adam, Christian and Nathan. They reside in Haddonfield, New Jersey.



**Joel H. Sterns**



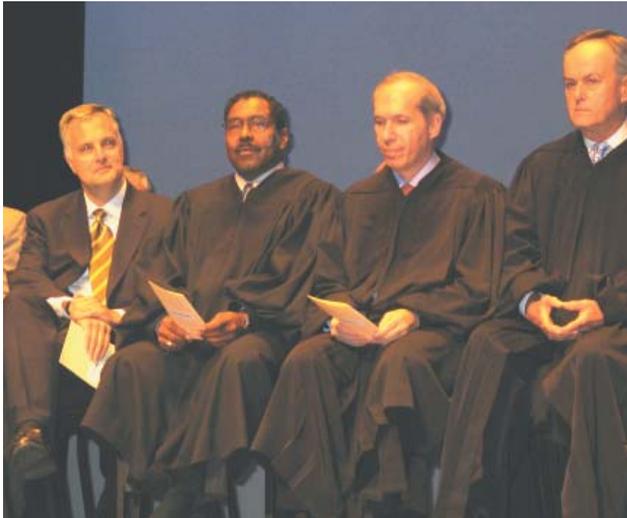
**Renee Sarajian singing the National Anthem**



**Gov. James E. McGreevey, the Rivera-Sotos and son Christian.**

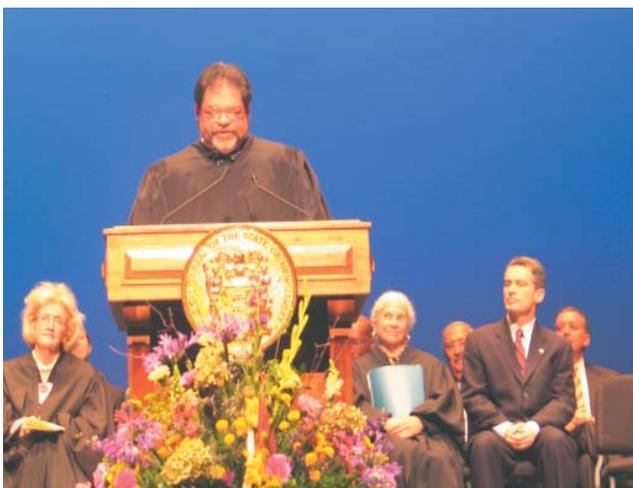


**Welcoming a New Associate Justice**--Former New Jersey Supreme Court justices attending the ceremony include (left to right): James H. Coleman Jr., Gary S. Stein, Marie L. Garibaldi, Daniel J. O'Hern, Stewart G. Pollock, Alan B. Handler, Robert L. Clifford and Peter G. Verniero. Rev. Reginald Jackson (right), pastor of St. Matthew AME Church, gave the invocation. (Photos by L. Holt, L. Giuliari)



**Former Associate Justice** Peter G. Verniero (far left) joins Associate Justices John E. Wallace Jr., Barry T. Albin and James R. Zazzali

**Signing In**--Associate Justice Rivera-Soto signs documents during his official swearing in Sept. 1. Senior Associate Justice Virginia A. Long (left), Supreme Court Clerk Stephen Townsend and Mary Catherine Mullaney (the justice's wife) look on.



**Associate Justice Rivera-Soto** (left) addresses the audience as family members (right) listen.



## Tech-KNOWLEDGE-y

### *And Visions of XBoxes Danced in their Heads....*

by Janet Bastien, Project Manager, Information Technology

To: sclaus@northpole.com  
 From: gadgetfreak@geek.com  
 Re: Holiday Gift List for Geeks

Santa, I've been a good geek all year; no chain letters, kept my anti-virus software updated. So maybe when you're making that list and checking it twice, you'll add a few way-cool techie gadgets for me.

I'm sorry I used all those expletives when I lost my cell phone and spent a whole week getting all the phone numbers back. Gee, Santa, a SIM card backup device would save me from such frustration. In case your elves haven't told you, Santa, SIM stands for Subscriber Information Memory, a little card in most cell phones today that stores account information, phone numbers and other information you enter into your phone.

If you bring me this neat-o device, Santa, I could back up all the information on my phone to my PC, where I can easily create, edit and copy phonebook entries instead of typing on that tiny phone keypad. With available software, I can synchronize the address books of my e-mail account and my phone.

Then, once I get all that information from my phone onto my PC, it will be easy to transfer it to the SIM card of the new camera phone I hope you will bring me. This new technology is so exciting. I don't know which one to ask for; maybe you could pick one for me. I guess the hottest one has a built-in speakerphone, fully integrated camera and flash. You can get ring tones based on the actual recorded songs from top artists, download voice messages from celebrities who announce incoming calls, download cool new games, answer e-mails as they come in,

and keep up to 2,000 personal contacts a phone call, e-mail or instant message away.

Sprint's new cell phones display 13 TV channels, while Sony Ericsson's new model would allow me to send images from my mobile phone to TV sets and digital projectors.

Or you might want to check out Nokia; they've introduced a phone that can take video clips as well as photos. There is even a FastChat service that can turn this phone into a real-time video conferencing tool. Nokia is also developing Lifeblog software that will turn its cell phones into life journals, automatically arranging phone messages, images, videos and sound clips into a timeline of life events. If you got me this, Santa, you wouldn't have to waste all that time seeing me when I'm sleeping and knowing when I'm awake. I could just send you my blog.

Santa, just so you know it's not all about me, my whole family would enjoy a new Xbox. This computer-driven video gaming system will let us play games together on cold winter nights. Maybe you can stick some Xbox games in our stockings to go with it.

Here, I'll make it easy for you: get me a Harry Potter game, my brother wants ESPN NFL Football, Dad would like the Tiger Woods PGA Tour, and my sister wants a Barbie game. My little brother wants the SpongeBob SquarePants game, and Mom would like the Monopoly Party as a diversion from her Bunko games. We could play games with you and the elves, too, because Xbox lets us connect to the Internet and play games with other Xbox users on-line. I can watch the *Lord of the Rings* movie you gave me last year because it's also a DVD player. Please, Santa, please....

Continued on page 11



## Mission Statement of the New Jersey Court System

*We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.*